

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

TANCREDO, Tom (Republican)
Representative, 6th District, Colorado
Elected 1998 to the 106th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: North Denver, Colorado - 20 December 1945

Home: Golden, Colorado

Marital status: Married (Jackie) - 2 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: University of North Colorado, BA, 1968

Military: None specified

Profession: Think tank president

Political: Colorado House, 1977-81; US Education Department regional representative, 1981-93. Defeated Henry L. Strauss (D) in 1998 general election with 55% of the vote to succeed Rep Dan Schaefer (R) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 54% of the vote and in 2002 with 67%.

Rep Tancredo, the former president of the Independence Institute, a conservative think tank, and a Reagan and Bush administrations education official, is an advocate for school vouchers and the elimination of bilingual education. Supports the fight to sunset the tax code and backs a consumption tax or a flat tax. Also supports parent's rights, the death penalty and letting citizens carry concealed weapons, although supports Brady law banning assault weapons. Against abortions.

In the 106th Congress, noted that many are calling the information revealed in the Cox Report the scandal of the century. Said there are two major scandals detailed in the bi-partisan report: the national security breakdown in the DoE labs and, an even bigger scandal, the effort to downplay, to cover up and to thwart investigations into the first scandal. Observed that the military operation in Kosovo has exposed problems in the national defense structure that need immediate attention. Said the military is undermanned, overextended and showing severe signs of strain after having to do more with less for too long. Remarked that the defense bill is an excellent first step to reverse the trend and end the damage to the shortchanging of the US military. Observed that evidence points to transfer of American technology as having been a key factor in the rapid development of Chinese missile capability and criticized Administration's alleged role. Called any attempt to commit ground troops to Kosovo pure folly and asked fellow members to reconsider any decisions to commit American forces to this area. Commenting on the temptations term limit pledgers face after arriving in Washington, said "You can get caught up in this atmosphere pretty easily." On the bombing in Kosovo, remarked that he was afraid to say how he really feels because it might be interpreted as defeatist or pacifistic "and I'm a hawk."

In the 107th Congress, reneged on term-limit pledge to serve for only 3 terms. Said he needed to remain in Congress to stem the tide of illegal immigration into the US. Called for using military troops to patrol the borders. In the 108th Congress, was one of the first to call for removal of Air Force academy's leadership. Argued if the leadership is just reassigned "you aren't solving anything." Said they should be forced to retire. (26 Mar 03, New York Times)

AF Bases: La Junta RBSS; Buckley ANGB

COMMITTEES

BUDGET

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS -- Subcs incl Africa; Asia & the Pacific; International Terrorism, Nonproliferation & Human Rights

RESOURCES